

Commencement 2021

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation from Wilmington College!

Due to COVID-19 occupancy restrictions, Wilmington College will hold TWO separate in-person Commencement Ceremonies on Saturday, May 8. Wilmington College Cincinnati students will attend the Commencement Ceremony at 3:00 P.M. in Hermann Court at Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio. This ceremony is dedicated to all students who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. It will begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. Graduates will need to report at 1:30 p.m. to the turf field located in the Center for Sport Sciences (CSS building – located behind Hermann Court) to line up for the ceremony.

Please read the information below carefully and then complete your Commencement RSVP online by no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, April 16th (complete the form even if you are unable to attend). Here is the direct link to the RSVP:

<https://wilmingtoncollege.wufoo.com/forms/branch-campus-rsvp2021-commencement/>

The RSVP is also located at: <https://www.wilmington.edu/cincinnati/commencement/>

To comply with our Campus Events COVID-19 policy, you must provide the name(s) and phone number(s) for your guests who will be attending the Commencement Ceremony as part of your RSVP. Each guest must also complete and return the "Visitor Agreement" (the agreement is attached to this email and available at <https://www.wilmington.edu/cincinnati/commencement/> The form can be completed and scanned back to: studentaffairs@wilmington.edu) All guests and graduates must wear a mask at all times while on the Wilmington College campus.

Because we are holding multiple ceremonies over the course of the day, we are requesting that you remove your vehicles from the College lots as soon as you can after the ceremony, but no later than 6:30 p.m., to accommodate the flow of traffic for the next ceremony.

If you have questions after reading this, please call us at: 513.569.4580.

Additional Important Information:

Tickets: Each senior has been given four (4) tickets for guests. *Every guest (including children) attending the Commencement Ceremony must have a ticket*.* Each ceremony will have its own distinctive ticket (the Bachelor of Arts tickets will have pink stickers on them). Tickets can be picked up with the cap and gown at the Wilmington College Cincinnati office at Cincinnati State in Room 401 ATLC Building as of Wednesday, April 21st. If you are not able to pick up your tickets in person, you can email wccincy@wilmington.edu. To receive your tickets by mail, you MUST provide your name, ID number, and your CORRECT mailing address so your tickets can be mailed to you. Wilmington College is not responsible

for any tickets that are lost in the mail. The College will livestream the Commencement Ceremony at www.wilmington.edu. This is perfect for guests who are not able to attend, but still want to watch the ceremony.

*A ticket will not be required for an infant (“babe in arms”).

Please do not sell or give away extra Commencement tickets, as family sections with a maximum of four members are being designated in Hermann Court for the May 8th ceremonies. Be assured that Wilmington College is going to great lengths to honor its graduates with an in-person Commencement Ceremony that is as safe as possible for graduates, faculty/staff, and guests. Note: Most of our peer institutions are allocating only two tickets per graduate.

Cap and Gown: Caps and gowns are required for Commencement. Please complete the attached (or enclosed) cap and gown form by Friday, April 16th, and scan/email it to wccincy@wilmington.edu (or you can drop it off in Room 401 ATLC at Cincinnati State). Caps and gowns may be picked up in 401 ATLC as of Wednesday, April 21st, along with Commencement tickets. Any order placed after April 16th will have to be picked up at the main campus bookstore or you can have your cap and gown shipped to your home for \$8.00 (0291mgr@follett.com). Make sure to try your gown on to ensure proper fit. You should hang up your gown when you get it. You can also steam your gown to remove wrinkles, but do not iron it.

Special Seating Accommodation Requests for Mobility Challenged Guests: The Commencement Ceremony will be held in Hermann Court, which offers stadium seating on one side (seats with backs) and bleacher seating on the other (seats with no backs). There are no handrails in either of these seating areas. If your guest cannot climb steep stairs without a handrail, you should consider requesting special seating accommodations. There is LIMITED reserved special seating accommodation for guests with mobility issues on the main floor of Hermann Court. Seats are reserved for individuals in wheelchairs or those who cannot easily navigate stairs. Wheelchairs are not provided. Unless your guest arrives in a wheelchair, seating will be in non-padded folding metal chairs. Hermann Court is NOT air conditioned. To reserve one of the limited special seating accommodations, complete the “Special Seating Accommodation Request” form by FRIDAY, APRIL 30 at <https://wilmingtoncollege.wufoo.com/forms/bachelor-of-arts-ceremony-special-seating-rqst/> The request is also available at <https://www.wilmington.edu/cincinnati/commencement/> Each guest requiring special seating accommodation will use one of the FOUR (4) tickets provided to each graduate. Special identification for accommodated guests and ONE family member will be provided *after* receipt of your request. Seating in this area is limited and requests will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

One (and only one) family member is required to be a designated assistant and must sit with the guest(s) needing special seating accommodation. This person will also need a ticket designated for the special seating accommodation area. Restrooms are handicapped accessible and are conveniently located. If your guest requires assistance with restroom needs, including assistance reaching the facility, it is the responsibility of the designated assistant to provide those services. Wilmington College employees are NOT responsible for assisting guests in the restrooms. Early arrival for special seating accommodation is required and begins at 2:00 p.m. All guests MUST be seated by 2:45 p.m. Guests not requiring accessible seating may enter Hermann Court at 2:00 p.m. No one will be allowed to enter Hermann Court during the processional. Parking: Guests with reserved special seating

accommodation should be dropped off behind Hermann Court. Cars will need to be moved immediately after dropping off guests to designated areas reserved for parking. Parking attendants will be available to direct traffic. Handicapped parking in the campus lots will be available on a first come, first served basis. Ohio law mandates only vehicles displaying a handicapped sign are permitted to use handicapped parking spaces.

Length of the Ceremony: The length of the ceremony, which begins with the processional at 3:00 p.m., will be approximately two hours. You will need to bring items necessary (bottled water is permissible) for your guests to be comfortably seated for at least three hours. Electrical outlets to power medical devices are not available.

What should I wear besides my cap and gown? This is a formal occasion and appropriate attire under your gown is required. For the ceremony, it is suggested you wear comfortable shoes* and men should wear pants (not shorts). Keep in mind that the gym is not air conditioned. Depending on the weather, it can get very hot in Hermann Court! *Since lineup will take place on the turf field, we request that the ladies do not wear spike heels – flats and/or wedges are permissible on the turf and, finally, no flip flops, please.

What can I bring to the ceremony? Don't bring anything that you can't carry in your pocket under your robe. There is no option for securing personal property during the ceremony. We strongly discourage carrying large items (i.e., balloons or bouquets).

What about a transcript and the diploma? One complimentary copy of your final transcript and your diploma will be mailed to your home address toward the end of May for Spring graduates (provided that the student's account is clear with One Stop). Additional copies of transcripts can be requested through www.wilmington.edu by clicking on "Request Transcript" at the bottom of the first page. There is a fee for additional transcripts.

SAVE THE DATE! WC CININNATI SENIOR BANQUET (Friday, June 25th, 2021)

The Cincinnati Branch Senior Banquet is the special celebration and dinner event for Cincinnati graduates. This year the Senior Banquet will take place on Friday, June 25th, 2021. You will receive more details about this event in a separate mailing.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Commencement, please call the Cincinnati office at 513.569.4580 or email wccincy@wilmington.edu. Commencement information is also available on the Wilmington College website: www.wilmington.edu/cincinnati/commencement.

We hope you have a wonderful and memorable commencement weekend!

Sylvia Stevens

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Vice President for External Programs